Sex, Courtship, and Marriage. 000

Just as there are no special rites marking a boy's entrance into puberty, there are similarly none for a girl. When the menstrual periods begin, the girl is not alarmed since she has heard the women speak of this phenomenon and therefore knows what to expect. Girls are "ashamed" to tell anyone when the menstrual discharge /suúsa/ /su/ 'vagina', 'sa/ "blood,' first appears. In fact, no one likes to talk about it at all, but there are no taboos concerning it. The menstrual discharge is not considered dangerous in any way, and the women may eat anything, bathe in the river, work in the gardens, and engage in sexual intercourse. The women claim that they experience no cramping, nor other discomfort during catomenia. 881 841

Household. Relations within the family tend to be amiable and affectionate. Husband and wife may joke with each other and with the children. The children are taught to respect their parents and other relatives, but no special behavior is expected for different kinds of relatives. It is expected however, that siblings will form an especially intense bond and brother-sister 593 [867]

harangued the people for about a half an hour during which he said that they were all evil people and that his own son would sponsor the upcoming Christmas fiesta, and that he would help him finance it. This was later done by manufacturing and selling several canoes in Esmeraldas. The chief told the writer that it is very difficult to find sponsors and that he had to sponsor several fiestas in the past because no one else would. By their refusal, Gabriel was forced to assume more control over the fiesta and he was beginning to instruct his son regarding fiesta responsibility.

Sponsorship gives one religious merit. Their gifts are blessed before the statues of the saints by the Chief. The main business of the fiesta is now undertaken--serious drinking. As the effects of alcohol begin to make themselves felt, long smouldering disputes are argued and brought to the chief for settlement. Drunken officials approach drunken single men and attempt to arrange marriages, transgressors against the law are brought before the chief and tried.

Any Cayapa will say that he is a good Catholic, but religion is always manifest as a group, rather